Royalty to Maharashtra for extracting coal

780. SHRI S. W. DHABE: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) what royalty is paid to Maharashtra Government for extracting coal in Nagpur, Chandrapur and Yeotmal Districts of Maharashtra State annually;

(b) what was the amount of royalty paid during the last three years *i.e.* 1982-83, 1983-84 and 1984-85; and

(c) what is the rate of payment of royalty to the State Government and when it was that last fixed or revised?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) and (b) Royalty paid by Western Coalfields Limited to Maharashtra Government during the last three years is as under:—

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Royalty paid
1982-83	2·45
1983-84	3·66
1984-85	5·20

(c) The rate of royalty on coal was last revised with effect from 13-2-1981. At present the rate varies from Rs. 2.50 per tonne to Rs. 7.00 per tonne depending upon the group in which particular grade if coal is classified.

Drilling in Andaman and Nicobar Islands

781. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the oil exploration done by Oil and Natural Gas Commission in the islands of Andaman and Nicobar have indicated oil reserve; and

(b) if so, whether O.N.G.C. propose to take up drilling work in these islands and what is the programme in this regard.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH): (a) and (b) No, Sir. ONGC propose to drill 9 wells in the offshore areas of Andaman & Nicobar during the Seventh Five Year Plan.

Report on working of E.C.L.

782. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the expert panel on the Eastern Coalfields Limited (E.C.L.) has submitted its report to Government on the working of E.C.L.;

(b) whether the panel has recommended closure of some mines; if so, how many of such mines; and

(c) what are the grounds on which this closure has been recommended?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY: (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) In view of very high cost of production and extremely low Output Per Manshift in some of the mines, the Committee have observed that such mines deserve to be closed

Cost of Production of one L.P.G. cylinder

783. SHRI J. P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the cost of production of one LPG cylinder;

(b) what is the amount of security which is deposited by the customer for one LPG cylinder;